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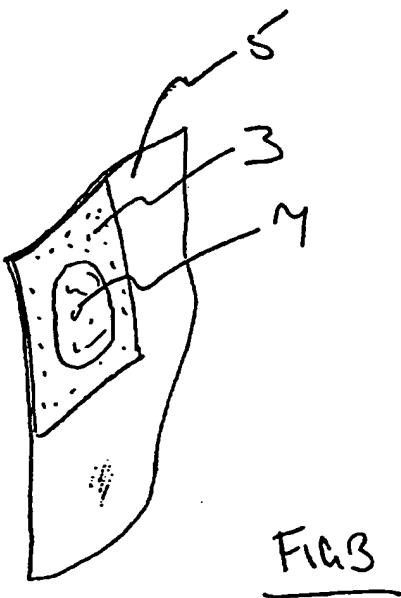
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(54) Abstract Title
Blue tabs

(57) A Blue Tab 3(Fig 3) is applied to a poster 5(Fig 3) or other items made from paper or other absorbent material, to strengthen and protect a poster from damage that can be caused as a result of fixing said poster to a surface using adhesive putty 7(Fig 3) or sticky tape. The Tab is a non-porous piece of flexible film where a relatively thin layer of pressure sensitive adhesive has been applied to one surface 14(Fig 4). The Tab may be of any pre-formed shape but, preferably, it will have two adjacent straight and perpendicular edges. The backing sheet 12 (Fig 4) to which the Tab is releasably secured, provides a combined carrier for the tab and protection to the adhesive from contamination from dust and dirt. The tabs may be formed from PVC or polyethylene.

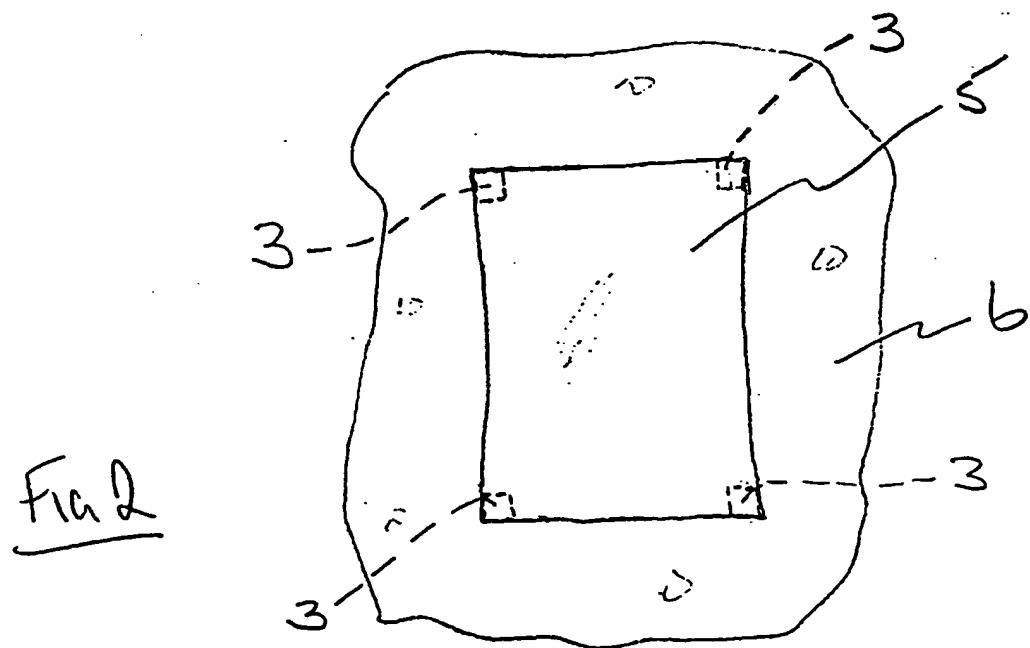
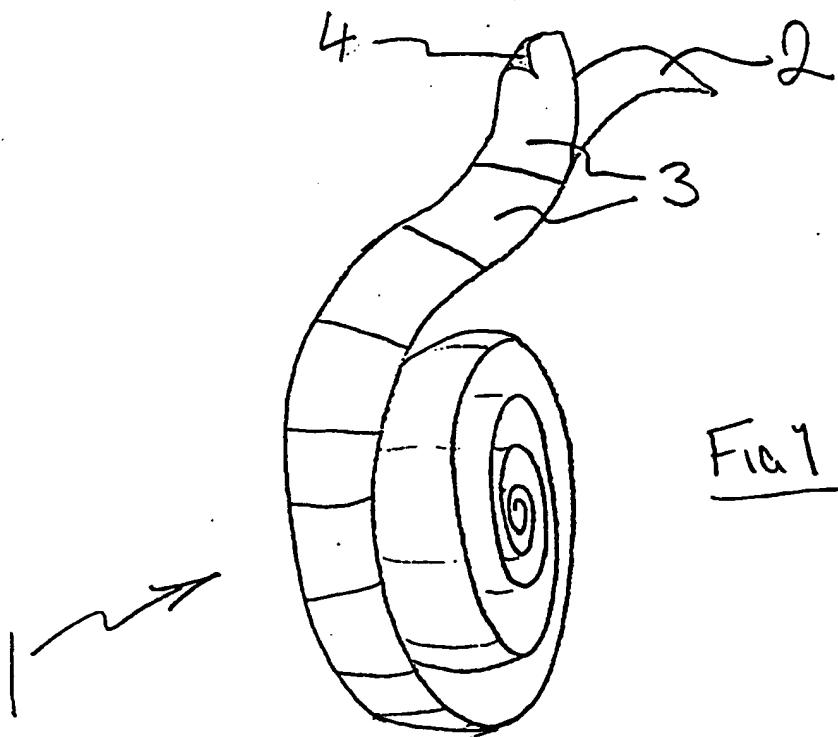


GB 2 333 050 A

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995

At least one of these pages has been prepared from an original which was unsuitable for direct photoreproduction.

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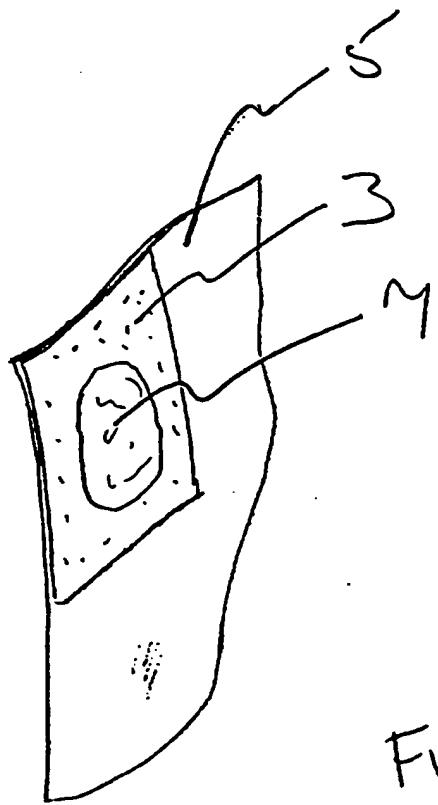


FIG 3

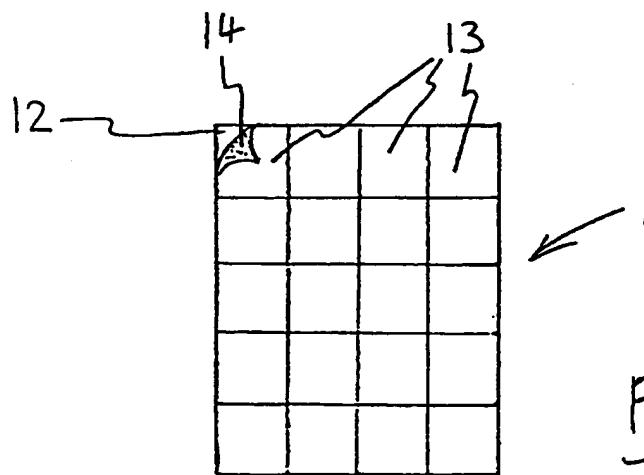


FIG 4

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MOUNTING POSTERS

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to articles of the kind which generally carry printed or hand-applied matter, which may be of an artistic, promotional or informative nature. In most cases the articles are formed of sheets of paper or thin card, but less commonly, they may be of other flexible materials. For convenience, such articles will be collectively referred to herein simply as "posters".

BACKGROUND

In schools, homes and offices posters are frequently secured to a wall or other surface for display. In the past, means of attachment such as drawing pins and adhesive tape have been used, but these cause damage either to the poster itself and/or the surface to which it is attached.

In recent years it has become commonplace to hang posters using pieces of adhesive putty interposed between the rear of the poster and the surface. However, in the case of posters of a porous nature the putty tends to be absorbed into the poster so that any attempt to remove the putty or move the

poster can result in damage to the poster.

The present invention seeks to provide a new and inventive means of securing posters to a surface.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention proposes a method of attaching a poster to a surface which comprises the steps of:

- peeling pre-shaped protective elements from a protective backing sheet, said elements comprising pieces of non-porous film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive by which said elements are releasably secured to said backing sheet;
- applying said elements to the rear of a poster at selected mutually spaced positions such that said elements become attached thereto by means of said pressure-sensitive adhesive; and
- attaching said poster to a surface using lumps of adhesive putty interposed between said elements and said surface.

The invention further provides a poster having pre-shaped protective elements applied to the rear of said poster at selected mutually spaced positions, said elements comprising pieces of non-porous film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive by which said elements are attached to said poster, said poster being attached to a surface by lumps of adhesive putty interposed between said elements and said surface.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following description and the accompanying drawings referred to therein are included by way of non-limiting example in order to illustrate how the invention may be put into practice. In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a general view of a reel of adhesive tab elements for use in the invention,

Figure 2 is a general view of a poster mounted on a wall in accordance with the invention,

Figure 3 is a detail of corner of the poster, viewed from the rear, and

Figure 4 is a front view of a sheet of adhesive tab elements for use in the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In Fig. 1 there is provided a roll 1 formed of a strip 2 of a flexible material to which pressure-sensitive adhesives can be releasably secured such as wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or a non-stick material such as PTFE. The said material provides a combined releasable carrier and protective backing sheet to which individual tabs 3 are secured. The tabs 3 may be of any pre-formed shape, but they preferably have two adjacent straight and mutually perpendicular edges. In this example the tabs are

rectangular. The tabs 3 are formed of a non-absorbent flexible film such as polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polyethylene or other suitable plastics, with a thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 4 applied to one surface. The said adhesive temporarily attaches the tabs 3 to the backing sheet 2 prior to use, which in turn protects the adhesive layer against contamination by dust or dirt.

As shown in Fig. 2, the tabs 3 are used in mounting a poster 5 formed of paper or thin card, on a rigid substrate such as a wall 6. It will be appreciated that the poster could equally be mounted on any other suitable surface such as a door or ceiling for example. Firstly, the required number of tabs 3 (in this case four) are peeled from the backing 2 and applied to suitable mutually spaced positions on the rear surface of the poster 5. Generally it will be convenient to mount one tab in each corner, although tabs could also be placed in other positions, particularly if the poster is large. Also, when mounting the tabs at the corners of the poster it is preferred to align two mutually perpendicular edges of the tabs with the two edges of the poster so that the rear surface of the poster is completely covered at the corners. Similarly, the other tabs are preferably aligned with one edge of the poster. This greatly assists in removal of the poster without damage (see below). The adhesive layer is thus used to permanently attach the tabs to the poster, using application of moderate pressure to ensure a good bond.

The poster is then mounted on the surface using lumps of proprietary adhesive putty 7 (Fig. 3) which are applied to the exposed non-adhesive surfaces of the tabs 3. Again moderate pressure is applied to bond the putty to the tabs, following which the poster is then applied to a wall using application of finger-pressure through the poster to ensure that the lumps of

putty become firmly bonded to the tabs and the surface of the wall. Care should be exercised to ensure that the size of the lumps and their positioning does not result in direct contact between the putty and the poster.

If required, the poster can be removed by severing the bond between the putty and either the wall and/or the tabs. By ensuring that the tabs are aligned with the edges of the poster during application thereto it is ensured that, during removal, the user grips and pulls the tabs rather than the poster alone, so that the risk of damage to the poster is reduced. The tabs serve several functions:

- They prevent the putty from being absorbed into the paper.
- They strengthen the paper and prevent it from tearing in the region of the putty.
- They form a release interface for easy separation between the putty and the tabs.

In the worst case, any putty still adhering to the tabs can be scraped off the tabs without causing damage to the poster.

As a result, the poster is undamaged and can be re-hung by applying fresh putty to the existing tabs, or fresh tabs can be applied to the rear of the poster if desired.

It will be appreciated that the roll of tabs shown in Fig. 1 is by way of illustration only. As shown in Fig. 4, the tabs could also be provided in the form of flat sheets 11, which each incorporate a number of tabs, as shown, or a single tab. The backing sheet 12 is again formed of a suitable flexible

material such as wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or a non-stick material such as PTFE to provide a releasable carrier for the tabs 13. In this example the tabs are again rectangular, but they could be of other shapes as discussed above. The tabs are formed of a non-absorbent flexible film such as polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polyethylene or other suitable plastics, with a thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 14 applied to one surface to releasably secure them to the backing sheet 12 prior to use.

It will be appreciated that the features disclosed herein may be present in any feasible combination. Whilst the above description lays emphasis on those areas which, in combination, are believed to be new, protection is claimed for any inventive combination of the features disclosed herein.

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CLAIMS

1. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive applied to one surface by which the said pre-shaped piece is releasably secured to a protective backing sheet.
2. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1, when attached to the rear of posters or other items at mutually spaced positions, offers protection against damage that may occur to said posters and other items when using adhesive putty or sticky tape to attach said posters or other items to a wall or other surface using adhesive putty or sticky tape.
3. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 may be of any pre-formed shape, but preferably have two adjacent straight and perpendicular edges.
4. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 3 which may be made from polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polythene, or any other such suitable material or a combination of these materials.
5. A protective backing sheet as claimed in Claim 1 which may be made from wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or other non-stick material such as PTFE or a combination of these materials.
6. A protective backing sheet as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 5 to which a pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 4, can be releasably attached, provides a combined releasable carrier and protection to the adhesive from contamination from dust or dirt.
7. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as herein described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing.



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 9800265.2
Claims searched: 1-7

Examiner: Jason Scott
Date of search: 23 March 1999

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.Q): B2E (EM); A4X (X14, XU25)

Int Cl (Ed.6): A47G (1/17)

Other: Online: WPI, JAPIO, EPODOC

Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Identity of document and relevant passage | Relevant to claims |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| X | GB 2320448 A WEBMASTER See page 6, paragraph 6 and page 7, paragraph 2. | 1-6 |
| A | GB 2207350 A SHELTON See whole document. | |

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| X | Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step | A | Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. |
| Y | Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category. | P | Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention. |
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